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PRESS RELEASE

February 27, 2004

GUILTY PLEA IN LARGE COUNTERFEIT CHECK CASHING RING

RE: UNITED STATES v. LINDA FLOYD

Michael A. Battle, the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, announced today that Linda Floyd, age 36, of 14 Hazelwood Terrace, Rochester, New York, pleaded guilty in front of the Honorable David G. Larimer, United States District Court Judge, to conspiracy to utter counterfeited checks in violation of 18 U.S.C. §371, which carries a maximum of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard A. Resnick, who is handling the case, stated that Linda Floyd and others conspired to obtain money for their personal use by causing counterfeited checks to be negotiated at various home improvement stores in the Western District of New York and elsewhere. These stores included Lowe's Home Improvement, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Dollar General, Fashion Bug, BJ's Wholesale

and the Burlington Coat. For example, during the period March 16, 2003 and March 22, 2003, nine counterfeited checks purportedly issued from a federally insured bank and in the name of Antoinette Kimball were negotiated at various Lowe's in the Rochester area.

Linda Floyd's role in the conspiracy was to rent vehicles for use during the conspiracy. Floyd also provided several stolen and false identifications, including stolen driver's licenses and social security cards, which were used during the conspiracy. Many stolen identifications were found at the defendant's residence during a search of her residence.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Resnick further stated that the counterfeited check scheme resulted in several hundreds of thousands of dollars in losses to the stores. The plea agreement anticipates a sentence of 27 to 33 months in prison.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation by William E. Kezer, Postal Inspector in Charge of the New York Division of the United States Postal Inspection Service, and the Greece New York Police Department.

Sentencing for Floyd is scheduled for May 26, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. in front of the Honorable David G. Larimer.

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